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1983 UNITED NATIONS PLEDGING CONFERENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1st MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 8 November 1983, at 10 a.m.

Temporary President: Mr. PEREZ DE CUELLAR (Secretary-General of the United Nations)

President: Mr. OM PRADHAN (Bhutan)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT said that, at a time of mounting political tension and economic difficulties, the Pledging Conference for Development Activities, in which more than 150 countries were participating, was a hopeful sign which reaffirmed the purpose of the Charter to use international machinery for the promotion of economic and social development. Because of the importance of operational activities in sustaining the development process, the Conference had been successful in attracting financial support from all quarters of the world. Although developing countries were primarily responsible for their own advancement, external support was often decisive. It could be said that development was currently at a standstill and that its stagnation not only had caused critical problems in developing countries but had had a detrimental effect on the developed world as well.

2. As had been shown by the practical results of the 1982 Conference, operational activities were an essential support for training human resources, strengthening institutions, providing basic services to disadvantaged groups and fostering self-reliant development. In view of the present scarcity of resources for investment, increased output and productivity could best be brought about by more efficient use of existing capital and a concentration of activities in the least developed countries.

3. However, there was a growing gap between the needs of developing countries for operational activities and the resources available to meet them. In 1982 there had been scarcely any growth in contributions, and organizations also had often had to face losses because of exchange-rate adjustments, which in turn had led to a deterioration of the economic situation, especially in the least developed countries. In view of that shortage of resources, it was worth considering that the annual financial requirements of the Pledging Conference were equivalent to 15 hours' worth of current world-wide expenditure on armaments.

4. Despite the difficult economic circumstances in the donor countries, all those who were in a position to do so should demonstrate by their generosity that they supported the goals of development and the United Nations. Countries unable to announce contributions during the present Conference should do so as early as their legislative procedures would permit. Prompt and effective payment were essential today.

5. The Second Committee would shortly conduct a comprehensive policy review of operational activities, on the basis of a report prepared by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. Undoubtedly the General Assembly would try to keep encouraging those operational activities in support of the developing countries.

6. Of the many funds and programmes which, through the Conference, were offering a large number of specialized services to the developing countries, the corner-stone was UNDP, with its 114 offices for development. With a multisectoral

(The Temporary President)

approach and on the basis of the experience of all the organizations of the system, it was trying to resolve the problems of development in the medium term. Changes in exchange rates over the past few years had resulted in a severe erosion of the value of those pledges in convertible terms, and although supplementary contributions had been mobilized, they had fallen short of the amount necessary, so that UNDP had been forced to curtail its activities. An increase in contributions of at least 7.5 per cent in nominal terms would be needed to enable the Programme to maintain its current level of activities.

7. The times were especially perilous for children: each day 40,000 children died from largely preventable causes, and most of those who survived lived out of reach of basic services, such as health care or drinking water. UNICEF was concentrating special efforts on the dissemination of relatively simple, cost-effective measures which, if applied as integral parts of primary health-care and basic-services programmes, would bring nearer the possibility of a revolution in child health care.

8. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) had made great strides since it had become operational 14 years earlier, and a growing number of Governments were adopting explicit policies to deal with their population problems. At the Mexico City International Conference on Population to be held in 1984, those problems would be studied, but there still remained much to be done to help the developing countries in that area. During the past four years, the level of voluntary contributions of UNFPA had not reached the modest objectives adopted by consensus in the Governing Council.

9. There were three funds which sought to respond to the particular needs of land-locked developing countries: the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries, which provided supplementary technical assistance; the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), which also played an important role under the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, and which could currently make effective use of greater contributions, and the United Nations Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries, which was helping those countries to mitigate the economic effects of their adverse geographical location, although the contributions pledged so far were inadequate to fulfil its objectives.

10. The United Nations Industrial Development Fund (UNIDF) was helping the developing countries in their process of industrialization, but its resources had remained well below the desirable funding level of $US 50 million established by the General Assembly.

11. The Trust Fund for the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations financed the continuously growing programme of technical co-operation aimed at strengthening the capability of host countries in dealing with matters related to transnational corporations.

(The Temporary President)

12. Two programmes administered by UNDP provided modest assistance to help developing countries exploit their energy and other natural resources: the Energy Account, working in close collaboration with the World Bank, and the Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration, which had a good record of achievement after only a few years of operation.

13. The Financing System for Science and Technology for Development, also administered by UNDP, provided a complementary mechanism to existing funds to help countries strengthen their indigenous capacities in science and technology. Negotiations on the establishment of the long-term institutional and financial arrangements for the Financing System were continuing. It was to be hoped that they would be brought to a successful conclusion at the current session of the General Assembly.

14. The Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities should be the subject of special attention at the Conference, in the light of the disastrous effects of the current drought in many parts of Africa. The Fund's resources were being used effectively both for programme and project financing and as a catalyst to promote complementary funding of drought relief in eight countries of the Sahel and 11 neighbouring countries. Four years earlier, a Special Account had been established to finance the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, and the General Assembly and the Governing Council of UNEP had requested additional contributions for that Account. The resources available in it were still below the necessary level.

15. The year 1983 marked the end of the first phase of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, launched in 1978. In the second phase, particular attention would be paid to the maintenance of existing assets and the training of manpower for transportation and communications services. The United Nations Trust Fund for African Development Activities had been established in 1976 to facilitate the implementation of high-priority projects within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action.

16. There was also the Trust Fund for the Economic Commission for Western Asia Regional Activities, established in 1976, which financed studies and advisory services in the countries that were members of the Commission.

17. The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) had played an increasingly important role in the developing countries; in 1984, in co-operation with organizations in Europe and North America, UNV would launch a programme to repatriate nationals trained abroad for voluntary service in their own countries. The Administrator estimated that the Special Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Volunteers required at least $US 2 million a year to finance the cost of volunteers from developing countries.

18. The Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women had impressively deployed its limited resources to improve the lives and conditions of disadvantaged women throughout the developing world. The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, which was currently fully operational at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, aimed to promote the full integration of women

(The Temporary President)

into development. The United Nations Trust Fund for Social Defence sought to help developing countries forestall delinquency and promote effective systems of criminal justice.

19. The resources of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation were used to assist developing countries in improving the living conditions of the poorest segments of the population in both urban and rural settlements. There remained, however, a substantial gap between available resources and the amount required to implement the work programme of the Commission on Human Settlements.

20. Further preventive measures were needed to counteract the alarming increase in drug abuse, yet the limited resources available stood in sharp contrast to the enormous illicit gains of drug traffickers, and special consideration must therefore be given to those problems through the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

21. Lastly, there was the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, which was in the process of revitalizing its training and research programmes, especially in the field of economic and social development. The new Executive Director of the Institute had launched a fund-raising campaign to attain the $US 3 million target for the 1984 budget. As UNITAR had now been included in the Pledging Conference for the first time, it was to be hoped that Member States would demonstrate their interest in it through their pledges.

22. The results of the Pledging Conference could be decisive in renewing the vitality of operational activities, which were central to the work of the United Nations and to the advancement of peoples. A generous response from the international community was needed more than ever before, and he was confident that the Governments of Member States would reaffirm by their actions their commitment to multilateral co-operation for development and recognize the essential role played in that endeavour by all the United Nations funds and programmes.

23. Before turning to the election of the President of the Pledging Conference, he reminded the participants that the Conference was governed by the rules of procedure for United Nations Pledging Conferences, contained in document A/33/580, and that the agenda of the Conference appeared in rule 9 of the rules of procedure.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President

24. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT said it was his understanding that informal consultations had been held and that there was general agreement that Mr. Om Pradhan (Bhutan) should be nominated for the post of President of the Conference.

25. Mr. Om Pradhan (Bhutan) was elected President by acclamation.

26. Mr. Om Pradhan (Bhutan) took the Chair.

27. The PRESIDENT expressed appreciation for his election and joined the Secretary-General in urging that pledges for development activities should, in real terms, be maintained at current levels or increased.

Vice-Presidents

28. The PRESIDENT said it was his understanding that there was general agreement to nominate for the posts of Vice-President Mr. Esaa (Nigeria), Mr. Kulawiec (Czechoslovakia) and Mr. Zucconi (Italy).

29. Mr. Esaa (Nigeria), Mr. Kulawiec (Czechoslovakia) and Mr. Zucconi (Italy) were elected Vice-Presidents by acclamation.

30. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the note by the Secretariat (A/CONF.122/1), which informed the Conference that the General Assembly, in its resolution 35/81, had requested the Secretary-General to entrust to the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation the annual submission to the General Assembly of information concerning operational activities for development, which should also be made available to the Pledging Conference. The report of the Director-General (A/38/258/Add.1) contained information concerning previous and current contributions from Governments and other sources for the various programmes of the Pledging Conference. He also pointed out that the Final Act of the Conference would be signed by the participants when all pledges had been made and that the signatures merely indicated participation in the Conference and did not constitute a confirmation of the pledges.

STATEMENTS REGARDING PLEDGES (A/CONF.122/1; A/38/258/Add.1)

31. The representative of AFGHANISTAN deplored the fact that voluntary contributions to the United Nations funds and programmes had declined sharply in the past two years and the existence of a gap between the needs of the recipient countries and the resources available, and observed that the current volume of contributions did not reflect the real capacity of countries to pay. He announced that his country would contribute the following amounts for 1984: $US 33,000 for UNDP; $US 30,000 for UNICEF; $US 2,000 for UNCDF; $US 2,000 for UNFPA; $US 1,500 for UNIDO, and $US 5,000 for the United Nations Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries. Afghanistan also contributed an annual 9,500,000 afghanis towards local expenses for the UNDP field office and 396,000 afghanis for the rental expenses of the UNICEF office at Kabul. In addition, Afghanistan announced the following contributions to United Nations organizations and programmes: $US 20,012 for UNESCO; $US 21,625 for WHO; $US 17,089 for FAO; $US 3,000 for WFP; and $US 3,000 for the Asian and Pacific Development Centre. Afghanistan would also contribute in 1984 to the following United Nations funds and institutes: $US 1,000 to UNITAR; $US 500 to the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW); $US 500 to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women; and $US 500 to the United Nations Institute for Namibia.

32. The representative of ALBANIA said that in 1984 his Government would make a voluntary contribution to UNDP of 40,000 new leks, which was 14.3 per cent higher than its contribution in 1983.

33. The representative of ALGERIA said that his country would make the following contributions in 1984: $US 834,000 for UNDP; $US142,000 for UNICEF; $US 40,000 for UNIDF; $US 5,000 for UNITAR; $US 37,000 for UNCDF; $US 8,500 for Habitat (under the pledged multi-year contribution); $US 11,000 for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (also under the multi-year agreement); $US 20,000 for the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities, and $US 10,000 for the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women.

34. The representative of ARGENTINA said that his country had provided strong and sustained support for the development activities of the United Nations system, particularly the activities of UNDP, and would continue to do so. As soon as the national budget for 1984 was approved, his Government would inform the Secretariat of its contribution for 1984.

35. The representative of AUSTRALIA said that his country was still unable to announce the exact amount of its contribution to UNDP, but would maintain at least the level of its contribution in Australian currency, which had amounted to $A 16 million in 1983. The contribution to UNICEF, which was subject to parliamentary approval of the Australia budget, would be $A 2.25 million; and the contribution to UNFPA was $A 1.125 million. When the Australian budget for 1984-1985 was considered, the possibility of increasing the contributions to UNICEF and UNFPA would be studied. Australia would also contribute $A 150,000 to UNIDF; $A 150,000 to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development Activities; $A 110,000 to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women; $A 120,000 to UNDRO; $A 90,000 to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa; $A 70,000 to the United Nations Fund for Namibia and $A 60,000 to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa. All those contributions would be made in convertible currency.

36. The representative of AUSTRIA said that his country would contribute S 134,710,000 to UNDP, of which the equivalent of $US 50,000 would be earmarked for the UNDP study programme set up in accordance with decision 81/30 of the Governing Council of UNDP to finance the seminar to be held in Vienna in September 1984. His Government was also prepared to earmark an appropriate part of that contribution for the UNDP-World Bank evaluation programmes for the energy sector and energy sector management. It would also contribute S 14 million to UNICEF, S 175,000 to the Special Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Volunteers, which was 20 per cent higher than its contribution for the previous year; S 368,000 to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women; S 123,000 to INSTRAW; and S 634,000 to UNFPA. The Austrian Government was also pledging a contribution of S 12 million to UNIDF. Of that contribution, which was subject to parliamentary approval, S 1 million constituted a general contribution to the Fund and the rest would be used in specific projects and programmes to be carried out during 1984. S 1.4 million would also be contributed to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, S 500,000 to UNITAR, and S 300,000 to UNCDF, to which his Government had pledged an annual contribution of S 300,000 until 1986, and Austria was considering the possibility of participating in specific projects of the Fund on a multilateral or bilateral basis.

37. The representative of BAHRAIN said that his country would contribute $US 5,000 to UNIDO, $US 7,500 to UNICEF and $US 56,000 to UNDP, which would be broken down in the following manner: an annual voluntary contribution of $US 16,000 to the programme, and $US 40,000 for the financing of programme costs.

38. The representative of BANGLADESH expressed the hope that the results of the current Conference would be more encouraging than those of previous years and that the stagnation in the operational activities for development of the United Nations system could be overcome. Bangladesh would contribute $US 200,000 to UNDP, which was 14 per cent higher than the contribution for 1982, and 715,000 taka to defray the programme expenses of the local UNDP office, which was an increase over the previous contribution. His country would contribute $US 7,200 to general UNICEF funds, which was 20 per cent higher than the previous contribution; $US 3,750 to UNCDF, which was an increase of 14 per cent and $US 2,280 to the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development. His country also pledged the following contributions, which represented an increase of 10 per cent respectively: $US 14,500 to UNFPA; $US 2,200 to UNEP; $US 1,100 to the United Nations Volunteers; $US 1,100 to the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration; and $US 2,200 to UNIDF.

39. The representative of BELGIUM pledged the following contributions for 1984, subject to approval by the Parliament: BF 600 million to UNDP; BF 37 million to general UNICEF funds, to which BF 16 million earmarked for specific projects would be added; BF 20 million to UNFPA, which included the special contribution to the preparations for the World Population Conference; BF 10 million to the United Nations Volunteers; BF 24 million to UNIDF for industrial development projects to be selected by common agreement; BF 10 million to the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for projects to be selected; BF 5 million to the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration; BF 4 million to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women for specific projects to be selected; BF 3 million to the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development, pending the results of the negotiations on that subject; and BF 925,000 to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. Those contributions would be supplemented by substantial amounts which the Belgian Government was earmarking for programmes of associate experts in various bodies of the United Nations system and the financing of fellowships and courses. The Belgian Parliament had recently approved a survival fund for the third world amounting to a total of BF 10 billion, or approximately $US 200 million, of which approximately 4 million could be used in 1984.

40. The representative of BHUTAN stressed the importance of contributions to development activities for the least developed countries, commended the work carried out by United Nations agencies, particularly UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNCDF and the United Nations Volunteers, and pledged the following contributions from his country, which would be made in the national currency: $US 5,000 to UNDP; $US 3,630 to UNICEF; $US 1,810 to UNFPA; $US 1,650 to UNCDF; $US 1,440 to the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries; $US 1,440 to the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development; $US 1,440 to the United Nations Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries; $US 1,200 to UNIDF, and $US 820 to the United Nations Volunteers.

41. The representative of BOLIVIA said that his country would announce the amount of its contributions as soon as the Parliament adopted the budget for the next fiscal year.

42. The representative of BOTSWANA said that, because of its precarious economic situation, which had been recently aggravated by the drought, his country had been forced to reduce its contributions to certain development activities. He pledged the following contributions: 18,700 pulas (P) to UNDP; P 5,000 to UNCDF; P 400 to the United Nations Volunteers; P 2,000 to Habitat; P 5,000 to UNIDF; P 10,000 to UNICEF; P 5,000 to Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women; P 1,400 to UNFPA; and P 5,500 to defray the local administrative costs of UNDP.

43. The representative of BRAZIL pledged the following contributions by his country: $US 5,000 for the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, $US 10,000 for the United Nations Special Fund for Land-Locked Developing Countries; $US 20,000 to UNEP; $US 15,000 to UNIDF; $US 10,000 for the United Nations Volunteers programme; $US 100,000 for UNICEF; and $US 2,503,394 for UNDP. In addition, in agreement with the UNDP Governing Council, Brazil would also contribute the equivalent of 14 per cent of its pledge, payable in cruzeiros. Owing to severe budgetary constraints, Brazil was unable to contribute to the United Nations Trust Fund for the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, despite the importance it attached to that programme, but would try to apply other forms of co-operation in order to contribute to the implementation of the projects of the Decade. When the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development was established, and assuming that it would be based on voluntary contributions and accept contributions in national currencies, Brazil would consider making a contribution in cruzeiros.

44. The representative of BULGARIA pledged a voluntary contribution by his Government of 610,000 leva to UNDP, which included a contribution of $US 100,000 for the training of personnel from developing countries. In 1984, Bulgaria would also contribute Lw 50,000 to cover local programme costs. It would also contribute Lw 4,500 to the expenses of the European office of UNDP at Geneva. Finally, it would contribute Lw 100,000 to UNIDF. Those contributions were subject to approval by the Bulgarian National Assembly.

45. The representative of BURMA pledged a contribution of 900,000 kyats to UNDP, the equivalent in kyats of $1,000 to UNIDF, K 30,000 to UNFPA and 27,000 pounds sterling and K 30,000 to UNICEF.

46. The representative of BURUNDI said that, despite its current difficulties, his Government would contribute 400,000 Burundi francs to UNDP, FBu 500,000 to the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries, FBu 200,000 to the United Nations Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries, FBu 500,000 to the UNFPA, FBu 200,000 to UNITAR and FBu 200,000 to UNICEF as special-purpose grants. His Government was studying the possibility of making contributions to other United Nations development programmes, which would be announced later. Burundi's currency was fully convertible.

47. The representative of the BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC said that his Government participated in UNDP activities because they were part of international efforts to overcome the backwardness that the developing countries had inherited from the exploitation in their colonial past, which was continuing and becoming more serious as a result of the practices of foreign private capital. The effectiveness of United Nations operational activities for development was closely linked to the international situation in general, international economic co-operation and efforts to halt the arms race and warlike activities. Highest priority in the utilization of those funds should be given to projects designed to strengthen the economic independence of developing countries and especially to promote the training of national cadres and to develop the key sectors of the economy. His country pledged voluntary contributions of 135,000 roubles for UNDP, 25 per cent of which would be paid in convertible currency, and R 56,000 for UNICEF. It must be assumed that UNDP would try to use up the contributions which had accumulated in roubles.

48. The representative of CANADA said that, subject to parliamentary approval, Canada would contribute 59 million Canadian dollars to UNDP, $Can 13,250,000 to UNICEF and $Can 10,250,000 to UNFPA, which represented an increase of about 10 per cent over the previous year for each programme. Canada accorded high priority to UNDP and had sought to improve its financial situation and system of management. In the spring of 1983, Canada had made a special additional contribution of $Can 7 million to UNDP, chargeable to the 1982/83 fiscal year, in an attempt to help alleviate the Programme's short-term problems, and felt that the other donor countries should make a similar effort. Canada planned to maintain its support for UNDP in 1985/86 and 1986/87 on the understanding that the decisions made and any additional improvements would be implemented. As long as improvements were made, Canada would not reduce its contribution and would consider increases if significant beneficial changes occurred. In addition, he pledged the following contributions, subject to normal parliamentary approval procedures: $US 903,000 to UNEP; $Can 173,000 to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation as the first instalment of a pledge of $Can 580,000 paid over three years for support of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements office for North America in Vancouver; $Can 90,000 for UNITAR for the General Fund, plus possible support for specific projects; $Can 20,000 for the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women as the second of three instalments pledged for the Decade. Canada's full contribution for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless ($Can 300,000) had been paid to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation.

49. The representative of CAPE VERDE said that, as a recipient, his country attached great importance to United Nations development activities. UNDP, UNIDO, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNCDF, UNFPA and other bodies had contributed considerably to Cape Verde's development since its independence. Cape Verde's ability to translate its interest into effective contributions was limited. However, its Government would contribute 370,000 Cape Verdean escudos, equivalent to $US 5,000, to UNDP and in 1984 would allocate C.V. Esc 3,370,000 of its IPF, equivalent to $US 45,000, to financing UNDP expenditure in Praia. Cape Verde's contributions to other funds and programmes of the United Nations system would be announced later.

50. The representative of CHILE said that his Government would contribute $US 10,000 to UNIDF, $US 5,000 to UNEP, $US 5,000 to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, $US 5,000 to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, $US 3,000 to UNITAR, $US 100,000 to UNICEF, $US 5,000 to the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration, $US 5,000 to the Special Account for Financing the Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, $US 5,000 to UNFPA and $US 970,000 to UNDP. In addition to its voluntary contributions to UNDP, Chile would contribute an additional $US 150,000 to the expenses of the office of the Resident Representative in Santiago.

51. The representative of CHINA said that, despite its current difficulties, his country would increase its contributions to the United Nations agencies engaged in economic and technical co-operation. He announced contributions of $US 1,750,000 to UNDP (an increase of 6 per cent over 1983); $US 400,000 for UNFPA (an increase of 21 per cent); $US 350,000 to UNICEF (an increase of 16 per cent); 600,000 yuan renminbi and $US 100,000 to UNIDO (an increase of 9 per cent and 43 per cent respectively); RMB 300,000 to UNCDF (an increase of 36 per cent); $US 20,000 for the United Nations Volunteers programme; $US 20,000 to UNITAR; $US 20,000 to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women; and $US 5,000 for the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

52. The representative of the CONGO announced that his country would contribute 7 million CFA Francs to UNICEF; CFAF 1.5 million to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat); CFAF 5 million to UNDP; CFAF 1 million to the Financing System for Science and Technology for Development; $US 10,000 to UNDIO; CFAF 3 million to the Fund for Voluntary Contributions to the United Nations Development Decade; and $US 10,000 to UNITAR.

53. The representative of CUBA said that his Government would contribute 463,728 Cuban pesos to UNDP, representing a 14 per cent increase over its contribution for 1983. In addition, it would contribute 216,000 pesos to programme costs and 20,000 pesos to UNCDF. He also pledged $US 100,000 and 15,000 pesos to UNICEF. His Government would contribute 27,500 pesos to the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development provided contributions in national currency would be acceptable; the Government might decide to contribute in convertible currency and an appropriate announcement would be made in due course. Cuba would also contribute 21,000 pesos to UNIDF. As regards UNFPA, his Government would offer 3 fellowships, for a period of 10 months each, in the Institute for Health Development and 12 experts for periods of 3 months each, representing a total of $US 105,000 for 1983. Finally, it would contribute 1,000 pesos to the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

54. The representative of CYPRUS said that his Government would have wished to make a substantial contribution to United Nations operational activities for development. The situation of the country had deteriorated, however, as a consequence of the occupation of part of the island, thus preventing it from making more than symbolic contributions. Although the Government proposed to contribute to a number of development activities in 1984, the only firm pledges which it could

(The representative of Cyprus)

make for the moment were: $US 300 to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and $US 750 to UNFPA. It would also contribute 200,000 Cyprus pounds to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation. Other contributions would be announced in due course.

55. The representative of CZECHOSLOVAKIA announced contributions of 7 million korury to UNDP, Kčs 1 million to UNICEF, Kčs 300,000 to UNEP and Kčs 2 million to UNIDF for the implementation of two projects relating to training in diesel mechanics (Kčs 1,250,000) and the joint programme relating to ceramics, building materials and non-metal base industries (Kčs 750,000).

56. The representative of the DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA announced a contribution of 550,000 won to UNDP.

57. The reprsentative of DEMOCRATIC YEMEN pledged a contribution of $US 60,000 to UNIDF; $US 1,760 to UNCDF; $US 7,040 to UNICEF; $US 1,600 to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women; $US 1,840 to UNEP; $US 500 to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation; $US 10,600 to UNDP; and $US 1,265 to UNITAR, as a token of its support for those organizations.

58. The representative of DENMARK expressed concern about the continued stagnation in the flow of resources to the United Nations development system, in particular to UNDP. Multilateral institutions provided a framework that ensured that all developing countries received a reasonable share of total official development aid. The poorer developing countries would for many years continue to depend on external aid; his Government had accordingly decided to maintain Danish official development assistance well above the 0.7 per cent target and would continue to channel a substantial share of such assistance through multilateral institutions. He expressed the hope that other countries would follow suit. Denmark had decided to increase the level of its contribution to UNDP because of the current serious financial situation of UNDP and as a sign of confidence in it. He hoped that Denmark's contribution would stimulate a new influx of resources to UNDP from both current and potential donors. Denmark would contribute 356 million Danish kroner (approximately $US 38 million) to UNDP for the year 1984, representing an increase of 8.5 per cent in national currency compared with its contribution for 1983. UNCDF complemented the mainly technical assistance from UNDP. Denmark fully supported the activities of that Fund and would contribute DKr 20 million (approximately $US 2.1 million) to it. The Danish contribution to the Special Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Volunteer Programme would be DKr 500,000 (approximately $US 55,000). In addition, Denmark pledged contributions of DKr 2 million for the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities; DKr 50.6 million for UNICEF, which represented an increase of 10 per cent over its contribution for 1983; DKr 46 million to UNFPA, also representing an increase of 10 per cent; $US 100,000 to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, $US 50,000 to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, DKr 250,000 for the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, representing an increase of 40 per cent in national currency, and DKr 400,000 to UNITAR. The Danish contributions for 1985

(The representative of Denmark)

and 1986 were expected to be of the same magnitude as that for 1984. The pledges by the Danish Government came to a total of DKr 477 million (approximately $US 51 million) for 1984 and were additional to other voluntary Danish contributions to a number of those same institutions earmarked for specific projects or special programmes. The pledges were all subject to parliamentary approval and would be paid in fully convertible currencies.

59. The representative of DJIBOUTI said that his Government would contribute $US 2,000 to UNDP and $US 2,000 to UNICEF, both payable in convertible Djibouti francs.

60. The representative of ECUADOR said that the operational activities of the United Nations represented an example of North-South co-operation for a peaceful world. Bilateral assistance could not be a substitute for multilateral measures, which were the basis of United Nations programmes and were designed to be catalysts of the economic efforts of developing countries. The critical lack of resources which affected the operational system, particularly UNDP, was to be regretted. Notwithstanding the difficult economic situation of his country, made worse by unprecedented droughts and floods, Ecuador had made an extraordinary effort to make the contributions which he was about to pledge and which would be paid in United States dollars. Ecuador would contribute $US 222,465 to UNDP, including $US 19,728 towards the maintenance of the office of the Resident Representative in Quito, plus $US 240,000 for programme costs, making a total of $US 462,465 for 1984. In addition, it would contribute $US 25,407 to UNICEF, $US 20,000 to UNFPA, $US 5,000 to UNIDF and $US 5,000 to UNEP.

61. The representative of EGYPT said that the voluntary contribution of his country to UNDP would be 371,570 Egyptian Pounds, including LE 154,558 towards defraying the local costs of the UNDP regional office in Cairo, plus the sum of LE 197,000 for programme costs. It would also contribute LE 17,392 to the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries, LE 67,545 to UNICEF, representing an increase of 14 per cent over the previous year; LE 59,565 to UNIDF, also representing an increase of 14 per cent, $US 500 to International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, LE 188,100 to UNFPA, LE 12,500 to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, LE 20,000 to UNEP, $US 1,000 to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, and $US 5,000 to UNITAR.

62. The representative of ETHIOPIA announced that his country would contribute 300,000 Ethiopian birr to UNDP, together with Br 60,000 to defray the cost of the local office, and Br 102,000 to UNICEF. Ethiopia would inform the representatives of the two agencies of the currencies in which those contributions would be paid.

63. The representative of FIJI announced the following contributions, subject to parliamentary approval: 44,000 Fiji dollars to UNDP, $F 1,050 to UNIDF, $F 1,900 to UNICEF, $F 1,000 to the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development and $F 2,000 to UNFPA. Fiji's contribution to financing the cost of the UNDP regional office would be announced later.

64. The representative of FINLAND said that the GNP percentage of Finland's official development assistance (ODA) would increase from 0.36 per cent in the present year to 0.40 per cent in the coming year. Multilateral assistance represented about 0.14 per cent of GNP. The continued increase in Finnish ODA demonstrated Finland's determination to reach the 0.7 per cent target despite economic difficulties. Finland would contribute Fmk 50 million to UNDP, in compliance with the 14 per cent annual growth target. Its aim was to channel 0.05 per cent of its GNP to the least developed countries. Accordingly, Finland would increase its contribution to the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries to Fmk 4 million and to UNCDF to Fmk 5.75 million. Finland was pledging Fmk 35 million to UNICEF, representing a 75 per cent increase over the pledge for 1983. An amount of Fmk 5 million in the pledge was earmarked for the Expanded Programme of Immunization. Finland would contribute Fmk 8.5 million for UNFPA, an increase of 31 per cent over the previous pledge; Fmk 500,000 to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation; Fmk 500,000 to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women; Fmk 150,000 to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations; Fmk 200,000 to UNITAR; and Fmk 3.3 million to UNEP.

65. The representative of FRANCE said that his country hoped to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP by 1988 and that its budget for development assistance would increase in the coming year more rapidly than total public expenditure. In 1984 France's total voluntary contributions to United Nations development activities would increase by more than 20 per cent. France would contribute FF 220,581,300 to UNDP. It was also contributing FF 15 million to the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries. France announced the following pledges, subject to parliamentary approval: FF 33 million to UNICEF, an increase of 25.7 per cent; FF 8.5 million to UNIDF, an increase of 21.4 per cent; FF 2.2 million to UNFPA, an increase of 46.5 per cent; FF 6,754,000 to UNEP, an increase of 12.5 per cent; FF 1,500,000 to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, an increase of 50 per cent; FF 620,000 to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, an increase of 38 per cent; FF 660,000 to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, an increase of 10 per cent; FF 220,000 to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, an increase of 10 per cent; FF 160,000 to the United Nations Trust Fund for Social Defence, an increase of 11.8 per cent; FF 300,000 to UNITAR, an increase of 20 per cent; and FF 800,000 to the United Nations University, compared with FF 573,000 in 1983. With regard to science and technology for development, France had made arrangements to contribute to the financing system as soon as it was in operation. France would also contribute FF 220,000 to the United Nations Trust Fund for the World Assembly on Aging, FF 165,000 to the Trust Fund for the International Year of Disabled Persons and FF 165,000 to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. Those contributions represented an increase of 10 per cent in each case.

66. The representative of GABON reaffirmed his country's support for the principle of using multilateral institutions for co-operation for development and said that Gabon would announce its contributions as soon as the National Assembly had adopted the budget.

67. The representative of the GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC said that his Government would contribute M 1 million to UNDP, M 320,000 to UNIDF and M 280,000 to UNICEF. The German Democratic Republic gave additional assistance to UNICEF through its UNICEF National Committee. In the present year, for example, M 500,000 worth of drugs and medicines had been presented to the UNICEF representative in Phnom Penh for UNICEF's programme in the People's Republic of Kampuchea. The National Committee had also agreed to train Lao citizens free of charge to work in the UNICEF printing office at Ventiane. During the current year the National Committee would provide a further M 200,000 worth of assistance to the People's Republic of Angola and would again participate in additional UNICEF programmes in 1984. To date, only about half of the funds contributed to UNDP had been used for project activities and the other half lay idle. On the other hand, the voluntary contributions to other United Nations bodies and agencies, such as IAEA, UNIDO, UNEP and UNICEF had been fully used for the implementation of programmes to benefit developing countries. The German Democratic Republic had therefore decided to divert M 1 million originally envisaged for UNDP for 1984 to UNIDO. That organization had been using contributions effectively in accordance with the urgent priorities of the developing countries and it needed additional resources in order to continue or expand current projects. His country's contribution would be used for the continuation of training courses in the fields of industrial planning, printing and pesticides formulation for participants from developing countries.

68. The representative of the FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY said that, in spite of difficulties and the need for further austerity in public budgeting, his Government would be increasing nearly all of its voluntary contributions to operational activities for development in the United Nations system. His pledges would be subject to parliamentary approval. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany would contribute DM 116 million to UNDP. It welcomed the establishment in UNDP of the Central Evaluation Unit and the Committee of the Whole. It would continue its co-operation with UNFPA, to which it would contribute DM 148 million. It would also contribute DM 14 million to UNICEF, representing an increase of more than 20 per cent over the previous year. It would also co-operate in the financing of specific projects up to DM 4.2 million in 1984, an increase of 16 per cent. It would contribute DM 500,000 to UNITAR programmes, representing an increase of 11 per cent. It also intended to make available up to DM 6.4 million to UNIDF, an increase of 4 per cent. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany was satisfied with the work of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and had submitted a proposal to Parliament for a voluntary contribution of up to DM 2 million to the Fund, in addition to DM 1.67 million to be made available for existing and future projects. He had pleasure in announcing a contribution of DM 50,000 to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women. Although his Government was not in a position to contribute to the other funds and programmes covered by the Conference, it was involved, directly or indirectly, in the UNDP Study Programme, in a number of projects in connection with the African Transport and Communications Decade and in activities in the Sudano-Sahelian region to which it was providing capital and technical assistance.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.